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11-12-1985

# 11/12/1985 - Gateway Conference Race

University Marketing and Communications

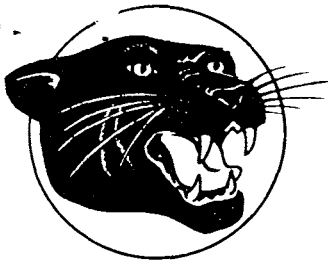
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# Panther Sports News

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LS-AS-Gateway

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (Nov. 12, 1985)--A chance for a winning season . . . the "swan song" for three seniors . . . and the opportunity to play spoilers in the Gateway Conference race are the motivating factors for the Eastern Illinois volleyball team. The Lady Panthers--15-16 overall and 2-5 in the league--host Western Illinois (11-11, 4-3) Thursday (5 p.m., McAfee Gym) and Bradley (31-8, 5-2) Friday (5 p.m., McAfee) in the final two matches of the year for Eastern.

Bradley is in fourth place in the conference while Western Illinois is tied for fifth with Southwest Missouri. EIU is tied for seventh with Indiana State. The top four teams qualify for the league playoffs next week at Southern Illinois (See standings on next page).

"Obviously we want to finish our season the way we started it . . . with a flourish," explains EIU head coach Betty Ralston. "We have an opportunity to have a say in who can go to the Gateway playoffs. Bradley defeated us earlier this year at a tournament in Chicago . . . that should be enough motivation for us. Plus . . . these are the final matches of the season for the seniors. I'm sure they want to go out a winner."

Seniors JUDY PLANOS (Evanston), MISTY BUCKHOLD (Riverton) and LORI BERGER (Henry) will be making their last appearance in Eastern garb against Western Illinois and Bradley. Planos is pacing the squad in hitting with a .240 average. She also is the team leader in kills (279) and service aces (39). The emotional leader of the club will be psyched up to finish her brilliant career in style.

The 5-foot-7 Buckhold has added incentive in the Bradley match. Her younger sister--Betsy--is a stalwart on the successful Lady Braves club. The elder statesperson of the Buckhold clan is hitting an even .200 for the campaign. She is second in digs with 225 while registering a respectable number of block assists (46).

Berger is the third member of the senior trio. The 5-9 middle hitter is second on the squad in block solos (17) and block assists (56). She is coming off a 12-kill,

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.423 hitting performance against Wichita State. Berger also tallied five total blocks against the Shockers.

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Gateway Conference Standings (As of 11/12/85)

	Conference	Overall
	W L	W L
1. Illinois State	6-1	26-6
Southern Illinois	6-1	22-10
3. Northern Iowa	7-2	23-5
4. Bradley	5-2	31-8
5. Western Illinois	4-3	11-11
Southwest Missouri State	4-3	10-18
7. EASTERN ILLINOIS	2-5	15-16
Indiana State	2-5	11-21
9. Wichita State	1-6	9-20
10. Drake	0-9	0-25